

Button Battery Rebate Program

*An easy way for a local community group to earn some extra money
Helping to protect the environment at the same time*

THE PROBLEM:

Millions of button-cell batteries are purchased and disposed of each year into the municipal solid waste stream. Each button-cell battery contains approximately 9mg of mercury. Mercury is a toxic heavy metal that is potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Button-cell batteries are found in watches, hearing aids, cameras, digital organizers, calculators, small toys etc.

BUTTON-CELL BATTERY REBATE PROGRAM

We are enlisting the assistance of local organizations to help keep these batteries out of the trash. The Mercury Recovery Program will pay \$100.00 per pound, up to \$1,000.00 per calendar year.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK

1. First, a local organization is identified. This organization should be well known in the community. Ideally it is a group that benefits the city or town but is not necessarily part of town government. There is a broad range of organizations/groups participating which include: Garden Clubs, Women's Clubs, Local Civic Organizations, Recycling or Sustainability Committees, Environmental Groups, Council on Aging, Charitable Organizations, Friends of the Board of Health, a High School Environment Club, a Lions Club, a Anti-liter group. In Billerica it is the Yankee Doodle Committee that sponsors fire-works on the 4th of July.

(We discourage youth groups such as sports teams, Boy Scouts or school groups. The problem with these groups is lack of sustainability. Having said that, one of our best groups is the Environmental Club at the Newburyport High School. So they will be considered.)

2. The local group distributes the small collection boxes to locations throughout the community. The best locations are "points of purchase," stores that sell button-cell batteries or locations where residents use button-cell batteries. The best locations are:

**DRUG STORES, CAMERA STORES, JEWELERS, HEARING AID STORES,
AUDIOLIGISTS, RADIO SHACKS, RECYCLING CENTERS, CAR DEALERSHIPS
SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS, COA'S, ASSISTED LIVING AND NURSING HOMES**

Boxes can also be left at other locations, such as libraries, town hall etc.

The small collection boxes are set-up on the counter and the small poster placed either on the counter and/or in the window of the store or other location. The poster clearly identifies the local group as the sponsor and beneficiary of the program.

3. **IMPORTANT: ONCE A MONTH** someone from the community group visits each collection location. The button-cell batteries are removed from the collection boxes and placed into a zip-lock plastic sandwich bag. Throw away any non button-cell batteries. **IMPORTANT – DO NOT REMOVE THE BOX, only the batteries.**
4. Bring the collected button-cell batteries to the Mercury Recovery Program collection site. Deposit the button-cell batteries, into the 5 gallon pail. In October / November of each year the final collection of the pails takes place. All the button-cell batteries collected throughout the year will be weighed and the group will be paid \$100.00 per pound up to a maximum of \$1,000.00. Payment should be received the beginning of the following year, usually in February.

Button Cell Battery Rebate Program

Participating Community Group Information

(Please Print)

Name of group: _____

Contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

**Please include a signed IRS Form W-9
(Required for payment)**

Please return this form to:

Scanlon Associates

34 Washington Ave.

Andover, MA 01810

For more information please call: 978-475-1776